



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 5590

LCO No. 1854

01854_____ED_

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL EDUCATION AND INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS CONCERNING AUTISM AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of
2 Education, in consultation with the Commissioners of Developmental
3 Services and Higher Education, shall develop recommendations to
4 incorporate methods of teaching children with autism and other
5 developmental disabilities into (1) programs for teacher preparation
6 pursuant to section 10-145a of the general statutes, as amended by this
7 act; (2) requirements for candidates seeking a provisional educator
8 certificate or an initial educator certificate pursuant to section 10-145b
9 of the general statutes, as amended by this act; (3) in-service training
10 pursuant to section 10-220a of the general statutes, as amended by this
11 act; and (4) training provided to paraprofessionals pursuant to section
12 10-155j of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by
13 this act.
- 14 (b) Such recommendations developed pursuant to this section shall,
15 at a minimum, address the following:

16 (1) Characteristics of students with autism and other developmental
17 disabilities;

18 (2) Curriculum planning, curricular and instructional modifications,
19 adaptations, and specialized strategies and techniques;

20 (3) Assistive technology; and

21 (4) Inclusive educational practices, including collaborative
22 partnerships.

23 (c) Not later than October 1, 2008, the Commissioner of Education
24 shall, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
25 statutes, report recommendations developed pursuant to this section
26 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
27 cognizance of matters relating to education, public health and higher
28 education.

29 Sec. 2. Section 10-145a of the general statutes is amended by adding
30 subsection (h) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

31 (NEW) (h) On and after July 1, 2009, any candidate in a program of
32 teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall complete,
33 within the existing framework of instruction as of June 30, 2008,
34 coursework instruction on methods of teaching children with autism
35 and other developmental disabilities, as recommended by the
36 Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 1 of this act.

37 Sec. 3. Subsection (e) of section 10-145b of the general statutes is
38 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
39 *1, 2008*):

40 (e) In order to be eligible to obtain [a provisional teaching
41 certificate,] a provisional educator certificate or an initial educator
42 certificate, each person shall be required to complete a course of study
43 in special education comprised of not fewer than thirty-six hours,
44 which shall include an understanding of the growth and development

45 of exceptional children, including handicapped and gifted and talented
46 children and children who may require special education, and
47 methods for identifying, planning for and working effectively with
48 special needs children in a regular classroom. On and after July 1, 2009,
49 such course shall include methods of teaching children with autism
50 and other developmental disabilities, as recommended by the
51 Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 1 of this act.
52 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection to the contrary, each
53 applicant for such certificates who has met all requirements for
54 certification except the completion of the course in special education
55 shall be entitled to a certificate (1) for a period not to exceed one year,
56 provided the applicant completed a teacher preparation program
57 either in the state prior to July 1, 1987, or outside the state, or
58 completed the necessary combination of professional experience or
59 coursework as required by the State Board of Education, or (2) for a
60 period not to exceed two years if the applicant applies for certification
61 in an area for which a bachelor's degree is not required.

62 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is
63 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
64 *1, 2008*):

65 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
66 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
67 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or
68 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
69 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
70 the nature and the relationship of drugs, as defined in subdivision (17)
71 of section 21a-240, and alcohol to health and personality development,
72 and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental
73 health risk reduction education which includes, but need not be
74 limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the
75 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually
76 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in
77 section 19a-581, violence, child abuse and youth suicide, (3) the growth

78 and development of exceptional children, including handicapped and
 79 gifted and talented children and children who may require special
 80 education, including, but not limited to, children with attention-deficit
 81 hyperactivity disorder or learning disabilities, and methods for
 82 identifying, planning for and working effectively with special needs
 83 children in a regular classroom, and on and after July 1, 2009, such
 84 information shall include methods of teaching children with autism
 85 and other developmental disabilities, as recommended by the
 86 Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 1 of this act, (4) school
 87 violence prevention and conflict resolution, (5) cardiopulmonary
 88 resuscitation and other emergency life saving procedures, (6) computer
 89 and other information technology as applied to student learning and
 90 classroom instruction, communications and data management, (7) the
 91 teaching of the language arts, reading and reading readiness for
 92 teachers in grades kindergarten to three, inclusive, and (8) second
 93 language acquisition in districts required to provide a program of
 94 bilingual education pursuant to section 10-17f. The State Board of
 95 Education, within available appropriations and utilizing available
 96 materials, shall assist and encourage local and regional boards of
 97 education to include: (A) Holocaust education and awareness; (B) the
 98 historical events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (C) African-
 99 American history; (D) Puerto Rican history; (E) Native American
 100 history; (F) personal financial management; and (G) topics approved
 101 by the state board upon the request of local or regional boards of
 102 education as part of in-service training programs pursuant to this
 103 subsection.

104 Sec. 5. Section 10-155j of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes
 105 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
 106 *1, 2008*):

107 The Department of Education, through the State Education
 108 Resource Center and within available appropriations for such
 109 purposes, shall promote and encourage professional development
 110 activities for school paraprofessionals with instructional

111 responsibilities. Such activities may include, but shall not be limited to,
 112 providing local and regional boards of education with training
 113 modules and curricula for professional development for
 114 paraprofessionals and assisting boards of education in the effective use
 115 of paraprofessionals and the development of strategies to improve
 116 communications between teachers and paraprofessionals in the
 117 provision of effective student instruction. On and after July 1, 2009,
 118 any such activities shall include training of such paraprofessionals in
 119 methods of teaching children with autism and other developmental
 120 disabilities, as recommended by the Commissioner of Education
 121 pursuant to section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	10-145a
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	10-145b(e)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	10-220a(a)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	10-155j

Statement of Purpose:

To require the development and use of instructional methods for children with autism and other developmental disabilities.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]